



16 March 1953

Hon. Harry F. Byrd
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator Byrd:

[redacted] enclosing a letter from Mr. [redacted] regard to my exchange of letters [redacted] in effect why the information requested by [redacted] should be withheld from him.

[redacted] letter of 20 February 1953 to me read as follows:

Will you please tell me in writing how much money the Central Intelligence Agency has transmitted or made available to the American Federation of Labor and/or the International Ladies Garment Workers, and/or David Dabinsky, its president, and for what purpose and whether by check or currency or what other means?

I should like to know all there is to be known about these details including the legal authority, if any. I should like also a detailed statement of the expenditures of the money. I hope I may hear from you soon.

This letter, as you will see, is merely a version of the old inquiry "when did you stop beating your wife?"

In carrying out the mission assigned to this Agency, it has been our invariable rule not to disclose publicly the nature or amount of any expenditures for confidential purposes. Nor do we reply to inquiries as to whether or not we have made expenditures from such funds for a particular purpose.

To answer such inquiries would lead to an unauthorized disclosure of our activities and would be contrary to the mandate placed upon me by law "that the Director of Central Intelligence shall be responsible for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure." (National Security Act of 1947, Section 102 (a)(3)).

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Official

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STAT I trust that this information will be helpful to you in replying
to letter.

Faithfully yours,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

AWD:mco

Distribution:

Orig[✓] - Addressee

1 cc - Mr. Wisner

1 cc - Congressional Matters

1 cc - Reading

1 cc - ER[✓] - *up basic*

1 cc - *Legislative Council*

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March 12, 1953 f

My dear Mr. Dulles:

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With very best wishes,

Faithfully yours,

Harry F. Byrd

Enclosure

(1)

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